

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A heat transfer sheet comprising a substrate, a light-heat conversion layer, and an image forming layer, wherein the image forming layer contains as a binder at least one of  
5 an acrylic resin and a styrene-acrylic copolymer resin, the acrylic resin and the styrene-acrylic copolymer resin having a glass transition temperature of 50°C or lower and a minimum film-forming temperature of 50°C or lower.

10 2. The heat transfer sheet according to claim 1, wherein the acrylic resin and the styrene-acrylic copolymer resin have a glass transition temperature of 20°C or lower.

15 3. The heat transfer sheet according to claim 1, wherein the acrylic resin and the styrene-acrylic copolymer resin have a minimum film-forming temperature of 20°C or lower.

20 4. The heat transfer sheet according to claim 1, further comprising an intermediate layer formed farther from the substrate than the light-heat conversion layer.

5. An image forming material comprising an image receiving sheet containing an image receiving layer and the heat transfer sheet according to claim 1, the heat transfer  
25 sheet being adapted to be superposed on the image receiving

sheet with the image forming layer facing the image receiving layer and irradiated with laser light to transfer the irradiated area of the image forming layer to the image receiving layer to record an image on the image receiving sheet.

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6. The image forming material according to claim 5, wherein the image has a size of 515 mm by 728 mm or larger.

7. The image forming material according to claim 5,  
10 wherein the image has a size of 594 mm by 841 mm or larger.

8. A method for forming an image comprising the steps of:

superposing the heat transfer sheet according to claim  
15 1 on the image receiving sheet according to claim 5 with the image forming layer of the heat transfer sheet facing the image receiving layer of the image receiving sheet,

imagewise irradiating the superposed heat transfer sheet with laser light,

20 and transferring the irradiated area of the image forming layer to the image receiving layer of the image receiving sheet in a form of a thin film to record an image.

9. A coating composition for forming an image forming  
25 layer on a laminate sheet comprising a substrate, a light-heat

conversion layer, and an intermediate layer in this order, the coating composition being adapted to be applied to the intermediate layer on demand for image recording, which contains a waterborne latex of at least one of an acrylic resin and a styrene-acrylic copolymer resin, the acrylic resin and the styrene-acrylic copolymer resin having a glass transition temperature of 50°C or lower and a minimum film-forming temperature of 50°C or lower.

10            10. The coating composition according to claim 9, wherein the acrylic resin and the styrene-acrylic copolymer resin have a glass transition temperature of 20°C or lower.

15            11. The coating composition according to claim 9, wherein the acrylic resin and the styrene-acrylic copolymer resin have a minimum film-forming temperature of 20°C or lower.

12. A method for forming an image on demand comprising the steps of:

20            applying the coating composition according to claim 9 to a laminate sheet comprising a substrate, a light-heat conversion layer, and an intermediate layer in this order to form an image forming layer on the intermediate layer thereby to prepare a heat transfer sheet,

25            superposing the heat transfer sheet on an image receiving

sheet having an image receiving layer with the image forming layer facing the image receiving layer,

imagewise irradiating the superposed heat transfer sheet with laser light, and

- 5        transferring the irradiated area of the image forming layer to the image receiving layer of the image receiving sheet in a form of a thin film to record an image.